

LinkUp NewsLink

Winter 2003

INFORMATION FOR BUSINESSES USING RECYCLED MATERIALS IN THEIR PRODUCTS

IN THE NEWS

What the media are saying about LinkUp partners

Urban Hardwoods and L & S Tire Company, two new LinkUp partners, made headlines recently.

A boost for urban wood

Jim Newsom of Urban Hardwoods was highlighted in a front-page business-section story that ran Nov. 4 in the *Seattle P-I*. Reporter Bill Virgin interviewed Newsom, a master furniture maker, about his plans to expand his business to harvest more felled urban trees and mill them into specialty woods for furniture making and wood hobbyist markets. Since the story appeared, Newsom has received calls from throughout the Northwest, offering him trees.

New value in old trees

Jim Newsom was also featured in a Nov. 5 *Daily Journal of Commerce* article, discussing his career with reporter Marc Stiles. Newsom cited one of his business goals as saving "tons and tons" of trees from landfills and fireplaces.

Scrap tire recycling

The October issue of *Scrap Tire News* featured L & S Tire Company, a Spokane tire recycler that has a facility in Pierce County. The article noted that L & S Tire is the first tire recycler to join the "innovative King County, Wash., program." Last year, L & S Tire collected 1.5 million scrap tires in Washington, Idaho and parts of Oregon.

Reaching the right markets

Tire Business featured L & S Tire Company in its Sept. 2 issue. The trade publication reaches some 22,000 tire dealers, wholesalers and others involved in the tire industry nationwide.

Bedrock Industries: A touch of (recycled) glass

Each Feb. 14, glass artist Maria Ruano, owner of Bedrock Industries, heads for Golden Gardens Park for her annual Valentine's Day tradition. There on the shores of Puget Sound, Ruano and her employees, along with scores of area residents, throw beautiful handmade glass hearts into the water. The "lovestones" are crafted by Bedrock Industries from 100 percent recycled glass and donated for the occasion.

"Hearts are a symbol of love," says Ruano. "When the glass hearts wash ashore and people find them on the beach, they immediately think of something they love."

Such passion is a hallmark of Bedrock Industries. The company was founded nearly a decade ago when Ruano was looking for a way to merge her interest in tile making with her love for the environment. It took more than two years to perfect the process that would allow her to transform discarded glass into beautiful, lustrous tiles. Today, the company estimates it recycles more than 200,000 pounds of glass annually.

Translucent beauty

Bedrock is best known for its distinctive Blazestone tiles used by architects and designers nationwide. Blazestone tiles are available in more than 20 colors and are used for floors, countertops, mosaics and walls and around pools and hot tubs.

The company also makes an array of other earth-friendly glass, gift and garden products, including magnets, coasters and ornaments. Next door to the plant, in Seattle's Interbay district, is the Stoneyard, a retail space where customers can buy seconds and overruns from Bedrock's product line.

Trash transformed

Bedrock gets its glass from bottles recycled through curbside collection programs and from scrap glass salvaged from commercial



Gary Darby

Jeanne Sickel, Bedrock Industries, applies non-skid stops to recycled-glass coasters. Even the copper wire used to bundle the coasters is recycled from construction sites.

enterprises. Bedrock also sponsors its own bottle drive, which is used as a fund-raiser by local schools and organizations.

When the bottles come in to Bedrock, they are sorted into piles of like-colored glass and then crushed into tiny pieces. The glass is then put into molds and heated in kilns to make the tiles, wind chimes and other products.

From red wine bottles come tiles in shades of deep evergreen. Chardonnay bottles are transformed into celery-colored tiles, and glass from certain water bottles is turned into tiles of cobalt blue.

The LinkUp team is helping Bedrock test its glass tiles for such performance factors as thermal shock, water absorption, friction, abrasion and strength. The data will be used in the company's marketing materials and to qualify the product for use in residential and commercial green-building construction.

NewsLink is published quarterly by the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Solid Waste Division, as part of the LinkUp program. For information about LinkUp, contact Erv Sandlin at (206) 296-0233 or erv.sandlin@metrokc.gov, or go to <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/linkup>.



King County

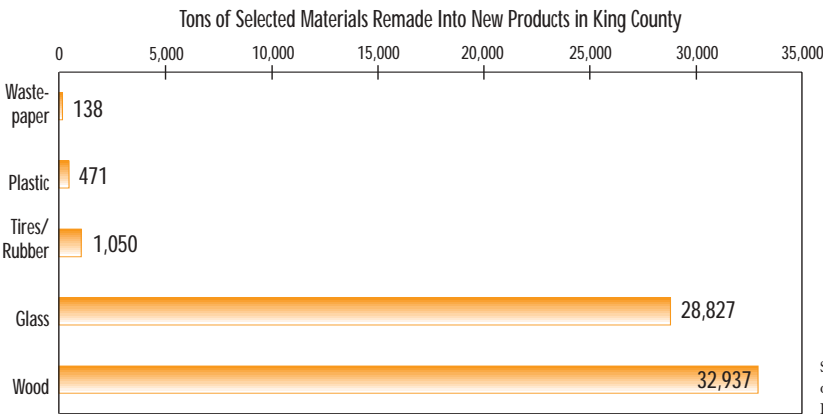
LinkUp seeks new partners for 2003

LinkUp provides eligible Puget Sound manufacturers with technical assistance and marketing support. To be considered for program participation, download an application form at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/linkup> or call Erv Sandlin at (206) 296-0233.

FAST FACTS

Making new products from old in King County

In 2001, King County manufacturers used more than 1.2 million tons of recycled materials to make other products, including water filtration media, roadbed material, insulation, boat bumpers and flooring. This is about 28 percent of the 4.4 million tons of materials made into new products statewide.



Source: 2001 Survey of Washington State's Recycling Industry

SPOTLIGHT ON KING COUNTY

New partners recycle scrap tires and plastic trash bins

Two manufacturers recently joined the LinkUp program: Schuyler Rubber Company and Recycled Plastic Products.

Founded in 1950, Schuyler Rubber, located in Woodinville, Wash., recycles truck and bus tires into laminated rubber marine fenders and other impact-absorption products, such as ballast collars for traffic barriers, wheel chocks, loading dock bumpers and blast-mats.

Schuyler recycles up to 500 scrap truck tires a day, reusing 100 percent of the steel-belted tires that come into its facility and about 90 percent of the bias-ply tires. Unused tire scraps are sent to another local manufacturer to produce crumb rubber.

The LinkUp team will help Schuyler identify and target government agencies that might become potential customers as well as provide some product testing.

Recycled Plastic Products (RPP), headquartered in Bluffdale, Utah, manufactures plastic wheels for waste bin carts from broken recycle bins, trash cans and other

plastic products. The recycled plastic wheels are usually heavier and more durable than the originals.

The company, which is able to process up to 9 tons of scrap plastics a day, plans to expand operations into King County. A local facility will be able to process up to 3 tons a day using recycled plastics generated locally. The LinkUp team will help RPP research the local market for waste bins and wheels, evaluate product-testing needs and provide marketing assistance.

King County nets top honors

In October, King County received the Partner of the Year award in the local government category from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The award — EPA's top honor for internal waste prevention and recycling — was based on the county's WasteWise program for 2001. By eliminating 600,000 pages of paper, collecting more than 4.4 million pounds of materials internally for recycling and implementing other waste-wise activities, county employees led the way in workplace recycling, waste reduction and the purchasing of products made from recycled materials.

CHECK IT OUT!

AND THE WINNER IS...

The Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) is seeking nominations for its 2003 recycling awards. Criteria, award categories and nomination forms are available at www.wsra.net or by calling (206) 244-0311. Nominations are due March 15, and the awards will be presented May 6.

LOCAL RECYCLING SHOWCASE

One of the spring's most well-attended recycling conferences is sponsored by the Washington State Recycling Association. This year, the event will be held May 4-6 in Spokane. For more information, send an e-mail to Zulay Ramirez at zulayr@wsra.net.

GOT INFO?

Search easily and quickly for hundreds of environmental services, products and resources by using the *Environmental Services Directory for Washington State*. For details, visit www.esdwa.com.

This newsletter is printed with nonpetroleum-based inks on a 50 percent recycled paper using 30 percent post-consumer waste.

Alternate formats of this newsletter are available upon request.

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Solid Waste Division LinkUp Program King Street Center, KSC-NR-0701 201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 701 Seattle, WA 98104-3856

